Motor Sports

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Cromsigt's wins start to add up

It does not take a mathematical genius to figure out who is winning at the races this season.

That is simple.

It is Gerrit Cromsigt, who has won four of five main event races this season.

The tricky part is figuring out how.

That has been a popular question in the pits at Saugus Speedway these days — one that prompted track officials to make an impromptu inspection of Cromsigt's 1975 Nova Street Stock car last week.

"They checked everything," Cromsigt said. "They were checking the (car's engine) compression to see if it was too high. They had guys under my car with flashlights."

But everything checked out.

In fact, the compression of the car's motor was actually below the specified level, the 32-year-old driver said.

"I'm just glad they did it," said Cromsigt of the inspection. "I wanted everyone to know that my motor is legal. I was getting tired of people saying it wasn't."

But the question of how still arises.

How has Cromsigt, who has been racing for five years, been able to achieve domination in two divisions?

The reasons are simple for self-proclaimed math wizard, who attributes his knowledge of mathematics and physics to his climb to the top of the standings in two divisions at Saugus this season.

"I've always excelled in mathematics," Cromsigt said. "I've been reading books on physics for about five years and I've learned a lot about weight transfers and how to make adjustments (to the car).

"I just think I have a lot of experience out here and I know how to do some things that some of the drivers don't. There is more to it than just the motor."

Cromsigt should know. He has served as a crew chief for several drivers, including former track record holders Rick Crow and Scott Roark.

Now Crow and Roark are returning the favor. The two are on Cromsigt's pit crew when they are not racing themselves.

He has also benefited from a new motor, supplied and maintained by M&R Machine of Glendale.

"I never had a motor this fast," said Cromsigt, who feels confident he will break the track qualifying record tonight. "I looks like a rocket motor."

That was showcased last week in the Street Stock oval main event when he moved from 13th to fourth in just four laps. He later shot past polesitter Todd Conrad into the lead en route to his second Street Stock win in as many starts.

His only loss came when, in an apparent victory in the Street Stock figure 8, he was penalized for cutting a corner, pushing him back to sixth.

Ironically, Cromsigt was almost not ready to start the season when he blew the motor in his car during a practice session at Saugus two weeks prior to the season opener.

Fortunately, he struck a deal with M&R and was able to start opening night.

It was similar good fortune that found Cromsigt in a Pro Stock car as well.

Just one week before the season, car owner Doug Renno offered Cromsigt a ride. The Palmdale resident responded by sweeping both the oval and figure 8 main events and leads the points standings by six points.

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